As his community paid more kist to the Government than several other communities, the Member requested that it might be duly represented in the service and that educated Vellala young men without employment might be provided with jobs by Government. Further, he stated that his community was poorly represented in the Judicial, Revenue and other Departments of the State service, and to remedy that defect he suggested that Vellalas who were in service, and who had passed the Revenue and Departmental Tests, might be duly promoted, and that those who had passed the Tamil Higher examination might be appointed as Tamil Munshies in the Education Department or given suitable appointments in other departments of the State carrying a pay of Rs. 40 or above. He also suggested that all Sub-Registrars and clerks in the Tamil taluks should be Tamilians. The community had no adequate facilities for education and the Member thanked the Government for appointing Mr. Sankararama Aiya, a Tamil scholar, as Assistant Inspector, and suggested the creation of a new Tamil Range and the appointment of Mr. Aiya as the Inspector thereof for the improvement of the Tamil language. He concluded his representation with a request that the vacancies in all departments might be filled by qualified Nanjanad Vellalas during the next ten years.

President's reply.—You said that facilities for education for Nanjanad Vellalas were not sufficient. You have also said that the Nanjanad Vellalas have not been sufficiently represented in the public service. The policy of Government is to give equal opportunities to all classes of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects. Without prejudice to character, efficiency and education, Government will give adequate representation in the service to all classes. Your representation is noted.

104. Christians in the Public Service.

Mr. Chacko Mathew (Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery) said that the Christian community did not secure adequate representation in the public service and in the several representative institutions of the State. Though the Land Revenue Department had been thrown open to all classes of the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, sufficient encouragement was not being afforded to Christians in the matter of employment in that department. Government gave a sympathetic reply to the representation made on that subject at the previous session of the Assembly, but the appointments since made in the Land Revenue Department would show that nothing tangible was being done towards improving the position of the Christian community in that respect, and especially the Roman Catholic section thereof. The Member said that Government had often remarked that Christians got more than their due share of appointments in the Judicial, Medical and Education Departments ; but he doubted the truth of that remark. Strictly speaking, the members of his community had a right to 30 per cent. of the appointments in the State service. But their representation in the Judicial, Police, Forest and Education Departments as well as in the Departments of Ayurveda, Agriculture and Industries was far below that standard. He suggested the desirability of adopting the principle of communal representation as the only effective means of removing the inequalities in question. He was aware that the principle advocated was not altogether sound, since it was opposed to high ideals of citizenship. The fact that there was ill-feeling as between the different communities living in the State could not, however, be ignored, and hence he brought that suggestion forward.

President's reply.—As I replied to the previous speaker, the intention of the Government is to give equal opportunities to all communities, with due regard to efficiency, character and education. But the rate of progress may not be as fast as you desire. It is not possible for Government to say that their principles could be given effect to within a prescribed term. The aim of Government is that all communities should be given equal opportunities and to remedy their grievances as early as possible. The question of representation of Roman Catholics in the public service will be specially noted.

105. Adequate representation of Roman Catholics in the Public Service.

Mr. M. P. Augustine (Member, Municipal Council, Alwaye) began by observing that the Catholics, who formed one of the most prominent communities in Travancore in point of numerical strength, education and wealth, were not receiving due

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representation in the public service. The reason for the fewness of Catholics in the Government service was attributed by him to the partiality shown by higher officials to the members of their own community in the distribution of official favour. The Member pointed out that the unsympathetic attitude of heads of departments towards Catholics in that respect was on several occasions brought to the notice of the Government through the Legislative Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Press.

The Member then proceeded to discuss at length the poor representation of Catholics in the several departments of the State service, such as the Judicial, Police, Education, Registration, Agriculture, Co-operation, Excise, Forest and Sanitary Departments. He also pointed out that in the Secretariat and the Account Office there were only four or five Catholics in the subordinate ranks. Catholics were not admitted into the State Military Department, nor was the prospect of their securing due admission in the Land Revenue Department any the better even after its separation from the Devaswom Department.

With a view to secure adequate representation to Catholics in the service, the Member suggested that strict instructions be issued to heads of departments to appoint only members of such communities as were not already well represented whenever vacancies arose, in proportion to the numerical strength and the educational advancement of the communities concerned.

President's reply.—Mr. Augustine, you have also referred to what Mr. Mathew has already stated. Regarding the representation of Roman Catholics, nothing more can be said than what has been already said by the Dewan yesterday. They could be only appointed without prejudice to efficiency, character and education, and without prejudice to the interests of those already in the service.

106. Certain defects in the Administration of the Police Department.

Mr. Lonan Lonan Pillai (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that he had nothing more to represent than what Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai had stated under Subject No. 95.

107. General needs of the Town of Shencottah.

Mr. Chellaswami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the minor roads within the town which were not maintained by the P. W. D. might with advantage be transferred to the Municipal Council, together with the funds allotted for their maintenance. Roads within the municipal limits which were not being maintained by the P. W. D., or for that matter, by any agency, must vest in the Municipality, as such roads, being by the side of human habitations, had to be properly looked after from a sanitary point of view.

The next point urged on the attention of Government was the desirability of appointing the local P. W. D. Officer as one of the official councillors. He classified the work of the Municipalities under 3 heads, *viz.*, sanitation, collection of revenue and public works. There was the Sanitary Commissioner to advise the Municipality in regard to sanitary matters. For the collection of municipal revenue, the President was invested with the powers of a Dewan Peishkar. As for public works, only the major Municipalities enjoyed the privilege of claiming the advice of the P. W. D. Officers and the Shencottah Municipality had very often felt the need for a P. W. D. Officer on the Council. He therefore emphasised the necessity of invariably appointing P. W. D. Officers as official members of Municipal Councils wherever possible, so that the Council might have the benefit of their professional advice in matters relating to public works.

The Member next spoke about the attendance of judges of Village Panchayat Courts. He said that the want of a definite provision in the Village Panchayat Courts Regulation prescribing a penalty for the non-attendance of judges similar to Section 19, 1 (*b*), of the Municipal Regulation caused much inconvenience to the people. To obviate the difficulty the Member proposed the insertion of a Section similar to the one in the Municipal Regulation.

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